

CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An apparatus for providing transaction cost information, comprising:

a memory device for storing information regarding at least one of a cost of at least one of a good, a product, and a service, a shipping cost, a handling cost, a tax, a duty, a tariff, and an insurance cost;

a receiver for receiving information regarding at least one of a transaction and an order involving at least one of a good(s), product(s), and a service(s);

a processor for processing said information regarding a transaction in conjunction with said information regarding at least one of a cost of at least one of a good, a product, and a service, a shipping cost, a handling cost, a tax, a duty, a tariff, and an insurance cost, wherein said processor calculates a total cost of said transaction, wherein said total cost of said transaction includes a cost of said at least one of a good,

a product, and a service, and any applicable at least one of a shipping cost, a handling cost, a tax, a duty, a tariff, and an insurance cost, associated with said transaction, and further wherein said processor generates a transaction total cost message, wherein said transaction total cost message contains information regarding the total cost of said transaction; and

a transmitter for transmitting said transaction total cost message to a communication device associated with a user.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said processor determines a running total cost of said transaction.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said processor determines a running total cost of said transaction in real-time.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said transmitter transmits said running total cost of said transaction to a communication device associated with the user.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is utilized at least one of on, over, and in conjunction with the Internet, the World Wide Web, a telephone network, a telecommunication network, a digital communication network, a satellite communication network, a wireless communication network, a personal communication services network, a broadband communication network, a bluetooth communication network, and further wherein the user communication device is at least one of a computer, a computer system, a group of computers, a telephone, a personal computer, a wireless telephone, a personal digital assistant, a video telephone, a personal communication device, a wireless device, a handheld device, and a palm-top device.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said total transaction cost information is transmitted to the user communication device at least one of prior to, contemporaneously with, and subsequent to, engaging in a transaction.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus provides information regarding at least one of a good(s), a product(s), and a service(s), and further wherein said information contains at least one of a video image, a video clip, an audio message, text material, a description, price, a shipping charge, a handling charge, a tax, a duty, a tariff, and an insurance charge.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said processor calculates said total transaction cost based upon at least one of the respective at least one of good(s), product(s), and/or service(s), characteristics of at least one of the good(s), product(s), and/or service(s), the at least one of weight and shipping considerations regarding at least one of the good(s), product(s), and/or service(s), at least one of handling requirements and handling procedures regarding any of the at least one of good(s), product(s), and/or service(s), required at least one of taxes, duties, and tariffs, the value of the at least one of good(s), product(s), and/or service(s), an incidence of damage for any of the at least one of good(s), product(s), and/or service(s), and at least one of an insurance policy, premiums, charges, and costs, for the at least one of good(s), product(s), and/or service(s).

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said processor calculates at least one of at least one of shipping costs, handling costs, taxes, duties, tariffs, and insurance costs, at least one of minimum shipping costs, minimum handling costs, minimum taxes, minimum duties, minimum tariffs, and minimum insurance costs, at least one of maximum shipping costs, maximum handling costs, maximum taxes, maximum duties, maximum tariffs, and maximum insurance costs, at least one of waived shipping costs, waived handling costs, waived taxes, waived duties, waived tariffs, and waived insurance costs, and at least one of incremental shipping costs, incremental handling costs, incremental taxes, incremental duties, incremental tariffs, and incremental insurance costs.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said processor calculates a minimum total transaction cost.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said processor at least one of places, processes, and arranges, an order in order to minimize at least one of said total transaction cost, a shipping cost, a handling cost, a tax, a duty, a tariff, and an insurance cost.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus provides information regarding at least one of shippers, shipping options, shipping costs, handling options, handling charges, available sources for the at least one of good(s), product(s), and/or service(s), taxes, duties, tariffs, available insurance coverage, insurance coverage options, insurance premiums, and insurance costs.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus can be programmed to select at least one of a shipping service, a shipping mode, a handling method, a taxing authority, an insurer, and an insurance policy, based on criteria which can include at least one of a minimum shipping cost, a minimum handling cost, and a faster delivery time.

14. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said receiver receives a user-defined maximum spending limit.

15. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said processor processes said transaction in conjunction with said user-defined maximum spending limit.

16. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus can determine at least one of an order combination, an order option, and an order variation.

17. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus can adjust an order to meet at least one of a user-defined maximum spending limit and a minimum cost.

18. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus provides notification to a user at least one of when a total cost of a prospective transaction at least one of falls, and is reduced, to a certain total transaction amount.

19. An apparatus for providing transaction cost information, comprising:

a memory device for storing information regarding at least one of a cost of at least one of a good, a product, and a service, a shipping cost, a handling cost, a tax, a duty, a tariff, and an insurance cost;

a receiver for receiving information regarding at

least one of a transaction and an order involving at least one of a good(s), product(s), and a service(s);

a processor, wherein said processor detects a price reduction event one of involving and related to a cost of at least one of a good, a product, and a service, a shipping cost, a handling cost, a tax, a duty, a tariff, and an insurance cost, and further wherein said processor processing said information regarding a transaction in conjunction with said information regarding at least one of a reduced cost of at least one of a good, a product, and a service, a shipping cost, a handling cost, a tax, a duty, a tariff, and an insurance cost, wherein said processor calculates a total cost of said transaction, wherein said total cost of said transaction includes a cost of said at least one of a good, a product, and a service, and any applicable at least one of a shipping cost, a handling cost, a tax, a duty, a tariff, and an insurance cost, associated with said transaction, and further wherein said processor generates a transaction total cost message, wherein said transaction total cost message contains information regarding the total cost of said transaction; and

a transmitter for transmitting said transaction total cost message to a communication device associated with a user.

20. A method for providing transaction cost information, comprising:

storing information regarding at least one of a cost of at least one of a good, a product, and a service, a shipping cost, a handling cost, a tax, a duty, a tariff, and an insurance cost;

receiving information regarding at least one of a transaction and an order involving at least one of a good(s), product(s), and a service(s);

processing said information regarding a transaction in conjunction with said information regarding at least one of a cost of at least one of a good, a product, and a service, a shipping cost, a handling cost, a tax, a duty, a tariff, and an insurance cost;

calculating a total cost of said transaction,

wherein said total cost of said transaction includes a cost of said at least one of a good, a product, and a service, and any applicable at least one of a shipping cost, a handling cost, a tax, a duty, a tariff, and an insurance cost, associated with said transaction;

generating a transaction total cost message, wherein said transaction total cost message contains information regarding the total cost of said transaction; and

transmitting said transaction total cost message to a communication device associated with a user.